

can never puncture the balloon by rejection. You find what you need. It is an internal upwelling of your own thoughts and desires. It could be a theophany that might reach you in an unguarded moment. An ecstasy you might never experience again—but you always know it to be there. So you keep looking and perhaps find other delights. In those abstracts exist so many pictures that are buried in your own unconscious. There, lies the exquisite joyousness you find within yourself. We feel that that is one of the primary reasons for the growing popularity of abstract painting.

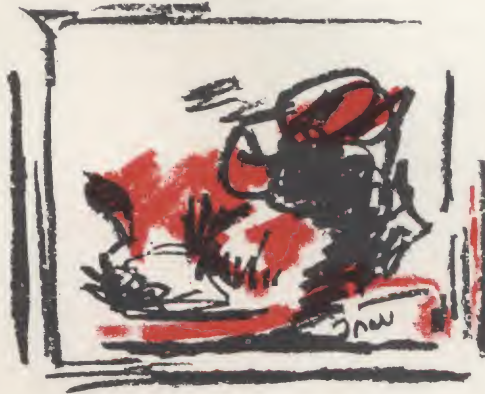
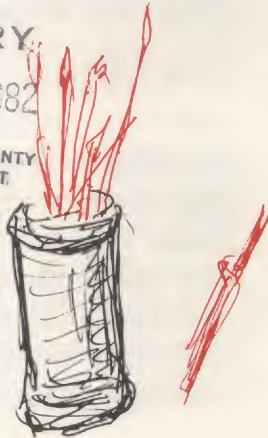
## a new world

In order to help people who have been timorous of embarking into the enjoyment of art we have prepared this essay, to help point out details that will help you to learn the language of appreciation. We hope it will be an introduction into a new world that will be absorbing and rewarding.

LIBRARY

JAN 22 1982

LOS ANGELES COUNTY  
MUSEUM OF ART



if you don't dig it, you'll never know—!



If you don't  
dig it, you'll  
never know.

**"I don't understand it!"**

Most people approach contemporary art in a cursory fashion. They feel that what the artist has to say is either too symbolic, too involved or too complicated to be understood. They dismiss it all with the statement, "I don't understand it, but I do know what I like." That is a rationalization of their bewilderment. If they only realized there are some simple roads leading to an appreciation of what is exposed to them that rewards come as thrilling joyous experiences. They are there just for the seeing.

To an artist, a painting is a language of expression that he is unable to translate into words. As Stieglitz said, "if the artist could have described in words what he feels, he would never have created it." "It" could be a picture or music or whatever. In truth it is a delineation of an emotional impact. Since the invention of photography, where with the snap of a shutter, a picture results which is exact in all its details, the artist has more and more moved in a direction towards emotional expressionism of what he sees. Why should he try

BY PHILLIP B. LEAVITT AND DOROTHY FRATT





**Philip Guston** (1913-1980), *Beggar's Joys*, signed 'Philip Guston' lower left, signed again, titled and dated 'PHILIP GUSTON "BEGGAR'S JOYS" 1954-55' on the reverse, oil on canvas, 71 1/2 x 68 1/2 in. (180.7 x 173.1 cm.), Estimate: \$900,000-1,200,000. To be sold in Christie's New York sale of Contemporary Art from the Boris Leavitt Collection on Wednesday, November 20, 1996. Inquiries: 212 546 1168



**Jean (Hans) Arp** (1887-1966), *Torse Chevalier*, white marble, Height: 34 1/2 in. (88 cm.), Executed in 1959. Estimate: \$150,000-200,000. To be sold in Christie's New York Impressionist and Modern Art sale on Wednesday, November 13, 1996. Inquiries: 212 546 1170

# LEAVITT, BORIS [COLLECTION OF]

## Property from THE BORIS LEAVITT COLLECTION

### Impressionist and Modern Art, Part I

Wednesday, November 13, 1996  
Christie's New York  
502 Park Avenue  
On view from Friday, November 8

### Contemporary Art from the Boris Leavitt Collection

Wednesday, November 20, 1996 at 7:00 pm  
Christie's New York  
502 Park Avenue  
On view from Saturday, November 16

### Latin American Art, Part I

Tuesday, November 26, 1996  
Christie's New York  
502 Park Avenue  
On view from Friday, November 22

### Contemporary Art, Parts I and II

Wednesday, December 4, and  
Thursday, December 5, 1996  
Christie's London  
8 King Street, St. James's  
On view from Sunday, December 1

Select property from the Boris Leavitt Collection  
will also be on tour and available for  
viewing in Christie's salerooms as follows:

SINGAPORE: October 4-5  
TOKYO: October 8-9  
NEW YORK: October 16  
ZURICH: October 25-27



**CHRISTIE'S**



PROPERTY FROM THE BORIS LEAVITT COLLECTION

ARTIST'S FILE



ONE MAN

LEAVITT

EXHIBITIONS:

Tuscon Annual Art Exhibition	1959
Phoenix Art Museum, one man Show	1959
Civic Art Center, New York	1959
President's Choice of the Artists Guild, Phoenix, Arizona	1959
Arizona Annual Art Exhibitions	1958, 1959, 1960

JANUARY 4 - 15

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LOS ANGELES COUNTY MUSEUM  
EXPOSITION PARK

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at

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GLORY GARDEN

New York, November 23, 1960

To some degree one can compare Phillip Leavitt's life to Paul Gauguin's - although Phil straddles the business of being a painter as well as a stockbroker, as he is still a member of the New York Stock Exchange. His escape is to the pleasant dry climate of Arizona, rather than to the South Sea Isles. It would also be a little audacious to speak in such confident terms of his talent as to compare him with Gauguin.

His seems to be a very natural talent in which bright colors dominate - as they do in nature on a beautiful day. He has a real love for paint itself, and for the images it creates. It is difficult to say whether Mr. Leavitt is an abstractionist or a realist. Unquestionably all his paintings have come from an actual source, usually nature itself - trees, mountains, streams, flowers; but he re-creates them all and has developed a fresh, personal style. Quite a few discerning collectors have already admired his work and backed up their judgment by purchases. At this point the writer has not seen his latest paintings, but as there has been consistent progress in the last few years, I am looking forward to seeing the newer works.

Mr. Leavitt realizes that people have problems, but his paintings are far removed from such problems. If one wants sheer enjoyment, he will definitely be attracted to Mr. Leavitt's paintings.

Roy R. Neuberger

# LIST OF PAINTINGS

1. Magic Forest
2. Arizona Hillside
3. Color Symphony I
4. Color Symphony II
5. Color Symphony III
6. Southern Accent
7. Indian Motive
8. Red Window
9. Into Space
10. Storm
11. Blue Infinity
12. Color Symphony IV
13. Sad Clown
14. Between Earth and Sky
15. Arizona Spring
16. Arizona Landscape I
17. White Flowers
18. Spring Song
19. Arizona Landscape II
20. Shocking Pink
21. Pool
22. Roses
23. Glory Garden
24. Small Still Life
25. Small Arizona
26. Forest Ways
27. Oriental Design

**WILLIAM LEAVITT**

***DRAWINGS***

APRIL 25 - JUNE 6, 1992

RECEPTION: SATURDAY, APRIL 25, 5 - 7 PM

**RICHARD KUHLENSCHMIDT GALLERY**

1630 SEVENTEENTH STREET SANTA MONICA, CALIFORNIA 90404

(310) 450-2010 FAX (310) 450-0872





LAM LEAVITT COMPOSITE LANDSCAPES AND BAR PAINTINGS 7 JULY - 14 AUGUST 1999 RECEPTION FOR THE ARTIST WEDNESDAY 7 JULY 5:30 - 7:30 PM  
MARGO LEAVIN GALLERY 812 NORTH ROBERTSON BOULEVARD LOS ANGELES CALIFORNIA 90069 310 273 0603 FAX 273 9131





ARTIST'S FILE

WILLIAM LEAVITT: THE RADIO  
*sound theater presentation*

presentations will be held at Los Angeles Contemporary Exhibitions  
on JULY 12, 13, 19, 20, 26 & 27 at 8PM

the presentation runs approximately 1 hour and 15 minutes

For reservations, please call 323.957.1777 ext. 10. Admission is \$7.00



Support for Los Angeles Contemporary Exhibitions and its programs comes from The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, California Arts Council, California Community Foundation Arts Funding Initiative, City of Los Angeles Cultural Affairs Department, Getty Grant Program, Thornton S. Glide, Jr. and Katrina D. Glide Foundation, Los Angeles County Arts Commission, and the members of Los Angeles Contemporary Exhibitions.

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LOS ANGELES CONTEMPORARY EXHIBITIONS  
6522 Hollywood Boulevard LA CA 90028  
t] 323.957.1777 f] 323.957.9025

Wednesday - Saturday 12 - 6 pm

artleak.org



MOCA Grand Avenue  
Saturday, March 12, 6-7pm

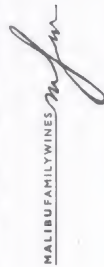


THE MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART  
INVITES YOU TO AN EXHIBITION PREVIEW OF

# William Leavitt: Theater Objects

SATURDAY, MARCH 12, 2011  
6-7pm

MOCA Grand Avenue  
250 S. Grand Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90012  
Public opening to follow  
Beverages graciously provided by:



This invitation admits two.  
Please RSVP to 213/633-5381 by Monday, March 7.  
Parking available in surrounding lots

William Leavitt: Theater Objects is made possible by lead support from Amy Adelson and Dean Valentine. Major support is provided by The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts. Generous additional support is provided by Fundación Jumex, Teiger Foundation, Karyn Kohl and MOCA Happy House, Margo Leavin Gallery, John Baldessari, Edward Israel, John Morace and Tom Kennedy, Steven F. Roth Family Foundation, The Danielson Foundation, and Rosette Delug.

William Leavitt, *Hillside Lights (Incandescent)*, 2004, oil on canvas, 24 x 60 in., courtesy of Margo Leavin Gallery, Los Angeles





# LEAVITT, WILLIAM

WILLIAM LEAVITT

24 FEBRUARY-23 MARCH 1996

OPENING RECEPTION

SATURDAY, 24 FEBRUARY 4-6 PM

MARGO LEAVIN GALLERY

812 NORTH ROBERTSON BOULEVARD  
LOS ANGELES CALIFORNIA 90069

310 273 0603 FAX 273 9131

SEPTEMBER 21-  
OCTOBER 19

**Bill Leavitt**  
**DRAWINGS**

**Nancy Reese**  
**Mark Stock**

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3808 BEVERLY BOULEVARD  
LOS ANGELES 385-3808

THURSDAY 11-9  
FRIDAY-SUNDAY 11-5  
AND BY APPOINTMENT





ARTISTS SPACE  
105 Hudson St.  
N.Y., N.Y. 10013

Opening Reception:  
5 to 7 May 5, 1979

WILLIAM LEAVITT  
*Tableau and Drawings*  
May 5 - June 9, 1979

Committee for the Visual Arts, 1979

ONE-MAN

LIBRARY

8 1979

LOS ANGELES COUNTY  
MUSEUM OF ART



**WILLIAM  
LEAVITT**

**RANDOM  
TREES**

Installation:  
September 27 –  
October 5, 1990

Performances:  
September 27 & 28;  
October 4 & 5, 8 pm



# **WILLIAM LEAVITT**

## **RANDOM TREES**

Santa Monica Museum of Art  
2437 Main St.  
Santa Monica, CA 90405

### Installation:

September 27—October 5, 1990

### Performances:

September 27 & 28; October 4 & 5, 8 pm

Tickets: \$5 general, \$3 students, SMMOA members free

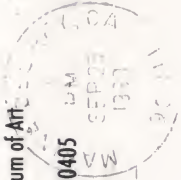
Santa Monica Museum of Art  
2437 Main Street (at Edgemar)  
Santa Monica

Parking on site and across the  
street at City Lot #11

For reservations and information  
please call 399-0433



Howard Fox  
Los Angeles County Museum of Art  
5905 Wilshire Blvd  
Los Angeles, CA 90026





FEBRUARY 3-28, 1976



Mary Jane Block  
#015 John D.  
L.A., CA 90024

THE CLAIRE COPLEY GALLERY, INC.

918 North LaCienega Boulevard

Los Angeles, California 90069

ONE-MAN

WILLIAM LEAVITT

# WILLIAM LEAVITT

DRAWINGS FOR "THE SILK"

LIBRARY

JAN 07 1977

SALES COUNTY  
ILLINOIS



**WILLIAM LEAVITT**

**MOLECULES AND BUILDINGS**

21 MARCH-18 APRIL 2009

RECEPTION FOR THE ARTIST, SATURDAY 21 MARCH 4-6 PM

MARGO LEAVIN GALLERY  
812 NORTH ROBERTSON BOULEVARD  
LOS ANGELES CALIFORNIA 90069  
310 273 0603 FAX 273 9131  
MAIL@MARGOLEAVINGALLERY.COM

SUNDAY, MARCH 13, 3pm

MOCA GRAND AVENUE, AHMANSON AUDITORIUM

On the occasion of the opening of William Leavitt: Theater Objects, William Leavitt and the exhibition co-curators, MOCA Curator Bennett Simpson and Stedelijk Museum Director Ann Goldstein, will discuss the exhibition and the artist's work. FREE with museum admission; no reservations necessary

THURSDAY, APRIL 14, 6:30pm

MOCA GRAND AVENUE, AHMANSON AUDITORIUM

Art historian and exhibition catalogue essayist Annette Leddy will talk about William Leavitt's work. FREE; no reservations necessary

THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 6:30pm

MOCA GRAND AVENUE

Exhibition co-curator and MOCA Curator Bennett Simpson will lead a walkthrough of William Leavitt: Theater Objects. FREE; no reservations necessary

Art Talks are made possible by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors through the Los Angeles County Arts Commission.



ANGEN

Education programs at MOCA are supported by the Times Mirror Foundation Endowment, the William Randolph Hearst Endowment for Education Programs, Jean and Lewis Wolff and Family, The Lara Gard Newhouse Charitable Lead Trust, Amgen, and David Hockney.

William Leavitt: Theater Objects is made possible by lead support from Amy Adelson and Dean Valentine.

Major support is provided by The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts. Generous additional support is provided by Fundacion Jumex, Telger Foundation, Karyn Kohl and MOCA Happy House, Margo Leavin Gallery, John Baldessari, Edward Israel, John Morace and Tom Kennedy, Steven F. Roth Family Foundation, The Danielson Foundation, and Rosette Delug.

COVER: William Leavitt, Painted Image, 1972, wood easel and oil-on-canvas painting, 66 x 33 1/2 in., The Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, purchased with funds provided by John Baldessari, photo by Brian Forrest

THURSDAY, MAY 12, 6:30pm and

SUNDAY, MAY 15, 3pm

MOCA GRAND AVENUE

Spectral Analysis (1977), a play by William Leavitt, will be performed in the galleries. Seating for this event is limited. FREE with museum admission; no reservations necessary

SUNDAY, JUNE 26, 3pm

MOCA GRAND AVENUE, AHMANSON AUDITORIUM

Pyramid, Lens, Delta (2003), a play by William Leavitt, will be presented as a table reading. FREE with museum admission; no reservations necessary



THE MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART

INFO 213/626-6222 or [moca.org](http://moca.org)



## William Leavitt: Theater Objects

MARCH 13-JULY 3, 2011  
MOCA GRAND AVENUE

William Leavitt (b. 1941, Washington, D.C.; lives and works in Los Angeles) was an integral figure in the emergence of Conceptual art in Los Angeles during the late 1960s. Leavitt moved to Los Angeles from the Midwest in 1965. Since then, he has channeled his interest in the landscape of the city—its geography, its vernacular architecture, and the ubiquitous presence of the film industry—through a body of work that is both deeply personal and uncannily familiar.

Leavitt uses a formal vocabulary that borrows from melodrama, film, theater, and set design. Singling out elements that may seem quinesentially Los Angeles, but at the same time quotidian or commonplace, he creates a "theater of the ordinary" in which everyday objects and situations prompt the viewer with hints and fragments of narrative. William Leavitt: Theater Objects assembles approximately 90 works from 1969 to the present, surveying the artist's multifaceted



WILLIAM LEAVITT

NEW DRAWINGS

14 JUNE-12 JULY 2003

MARGO LEAVIN GALLERY  
812 NORTH ROBERTSON BOULEVARD  
LOS ANGELES CALIFORNIA 90069  
310 273 0603 FAX 273 9131

PASTEL DRAWINGS BY **WILLIAM LEAVITT** WILL  
BE ON EXHIBITION FROM APRIL 16TH TO MAY 14TH  
AT **METRO PICTURES**, 169 MERCER STREET, NYC.

**METRO PICTURES**



LEAVITT



03  
58

**WILLIAM LEAVITT**

DRAWINGS - PAINTINGS

FEBRUARY 28 - MARCH 28, 1987



LEAVITT

ONE-MAN

WILLIAM LEAVITT

CLAIRE S. COPLEY GALLERY

918 No. La Cienega Boulevard

LIBRARY <sup>Los Angeles</sup>

MAR 1 1974

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February 6 - March 1

Opening 8-10 P.M.  
Tuesday, February 5





association with The Claire Copley Gallery

WILLIAM LEAVITT

presents

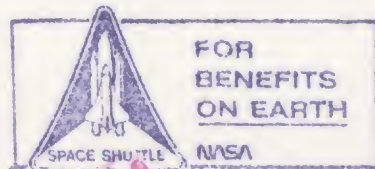
*The Silk*

a play

directed by Tonda Marton

December 2 and 3, 1975 8:30 p.m.

Municipal Art Gallery Theater, Barnsdall Park  
4804 Hollywood Boulevard, Los Angeles 90027



WILLIAM LEAVITT/DRAWINGS  
APRIL 30 - MAY 22, 1982/  
JANCAR / KUHLENSCHMIDT  
GALLERY (in cooperation  
with LARRY GAGOSIAN GAL-  
LERY) 4121 WILSHIRE BLVD  
LOS ANGELES, CALIF. 90010  
(213) 388-3260/ ARTIST'S  
RECEPTION/APRIL 30, 7-10

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# METRO PICTURES

169 MERCER STREET, NEW YORK 10012 212/925.8335

*An installation and drawings  
by William Leavitt*

*and*

*photographs by James Welling  
will be at*

*Metro Pictures*

*march 26 through april 15*

**LIBRARY**

SEP 05 1981

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*opening reception wednesday, march 25, 5-7 pm*



WILLIAM LEAVITT

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

CONTACT: Richard Kuhlenschmidt  
Barbara Steffen  
Pam Gregg

LIBRARY

AUG 03 1990

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RICHARD  
KUHLENSCHMIDT  
GALLERY

**WILLIAM LEAVITT / SPECTRAL ANALYSIS / A PERFORMANCE TABLEAU**

**SPECTRAL ANALYSIS**, a performance tableau by William Leavitt, will be performed at the Richard Kuhlenschmidt Gallery on Friday, July 13 and Saturday, July 14, 1990 at 8:00 pm.

**SPECTRAL ANALYSIS** was originally performed at the Houston Museum of Fine Arts in 1978 as part of the exhibition **American Narratives/Story Art: 1966-77**, curated by Paul Schimmel.

**SPECTRAL ANALYSIS** is an extended scene for three actors overlaid with a representation of the visible light spectrum. The set is a minimal but realistic fragment of a living room. The scene acted out is a series of all-night vigils attended by a man and woman in their living room.

A one-act play by William Leavitt will be performed this September at the Santa Monica Museum of Art as part of their **Projects '90** series.

**THERE WILL BE TWO PERFORMANCES OF SPECTRAL ANALYSIS:**

**FRIDAY, JULY 13 AT 8:00 PM**

**SATURDAY, JULY 14 AT 8:00 PM**

\* \* \*

WILLIAM  
LEAVITT,

art & project

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# bulletin 80

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1007 amsterdam  
willemsparkweg 36  
(020) 713991

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LEAVITT, WM

ONE MAN

1.10 - 19.10.1974

## william leavitt

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open tuesday through saturday 2-6 pm



CONTEMPORARY ART SURVEY PRESENTS

# WILLIAM LEAVITT

SLIDES / VIDEOTAPES

THURSDAY MAY 19 8:30 PM DICKSON AUDITORIUM UCLA  
FREE ADMISSION

PTF SLC SCA



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PRESS RELEASE

WILLIAM LEAVITT

# METRO PICTURES LIBRARY

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ART

WILLIAM LEAVITT: INSTALLATION AND DRAWINGS, 26 March-15 April 1981

WILLIAM LEAVITT, W.M.  
William Leavitt presents a tableau installation with a group of related drawings. These are the major forms of Leavitt's work along with corresponding scripts and theatrical performances. Leavitt's art revolves around fictional scene-setting that alludes to a filmic or fantasy storyline but never completes it. Elements of location, period, character, costume and ambience are defined by isolating essential details with minimum elaboration. The drawings and the installation embody the suggestion of the complex of factors that comprise a total environment. The current work centers around a pseudo scientist-magician in a desert setting. His accoutrements of space-age effects, contemporary magic tricks, and architectural and decorative details of home and laboratory are presented. The tableau is a physical manifestation of one of the drawings and might function also as a stage set for one of Leavitt's theatrical productions. The precise articulation of detail in Leavitt's work ultimately suggests more than it defines. It leaves the viewer to attach a "story" that satisfies the ambiguity of his presentation.

"What Leavitt is doing, is to isolate elements of the subtext of any Hollywood movie, those spaces and objects and gestures invested with an ambiguous psychological content, the elements which serve to carry the audience along with the story on an almost subliminal level ...It is the gap between a story and its telling which seems to attract Leavitt. He virtually discards narrative, retaining only what is essential to indicate the situation. Instead all of his attention is focused on the representation; or those details, pregnant with meaning, which silently fill out any tale."

---Thomas Lawson, Real Life Magazine

"(Leavitt's work) is an effective exercise in evoking a literary world with an economy of means." --William Wilson, Los Angeles Times

William Leavitt was born in 1941 and studied at the University of Colorado and Claremont Graduate School; he currently lives in Los Angeles. He has had one-person exhibitions in Los Angeles at Claire Copley Gallery and Larry Gagosian Gallery; the Long Beach (California) Museum of Art; Artists Space, New York; Art & Project Gallery, Amsterdam; Francoise Lambert Gallery, Milan; and Kabinett Fur Aktuelle Kunst, Bremerhaven, West Germany. His work has been included in group exhibitions at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Houston; Montgomery Art Center, Claremont, California; Los Angeles Institute of Contemporary Art; and the Penthouse Gallery of the Museum of Modern Art, New York.



WILLIAM LEAVITT

# Kuhlenschmidt · Simon

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FEB 19 1987  
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MUSEUM OF ART

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WILLIAM LEAVITT/PAINTINGS-DRAWINGS-TABLEAU

FEBRUARY 28-MARCH 28, 1987

RECEPTION FOR THE ARTIST:

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 3-5pm.

AN EXHIBITION OF DRAWINGS, PAINTINGS AND TABLEAU BY WILLIAM LEAVITT WILL BE SHOWN AT KUHLENSCHMIDT/SIMON FEBRUARY 28 TO MARCH 28, 1987. THIS IS HIS FIRST SOLO EXHIBITION SINCE 1982.

WILLIAM LEAVITT'S WORK DEPICTS COMMON EVERYDAY OBJECTS AND PLACES, ISOLATED AS IN A STAGE SET, WHICH COMPELS THE VIEWER TO LOOK AGAIN AND RECONSIDER THE COMMONPLACE. WITHIN THESE REAL OR IMAGINED LANDSCAPES AND INTERIORS ARE PSYCHOLOGICAL OVERTONES SUGGESTING THAT SOMETHING HAS JUST HAPPENED OR IS ABOUT TO HAPPEN.

WILLIAM LEAVITT RESIDES IN LOS ANGELES AND HAS EXHIBITED SINCE 1970 WITH EARLY SHOWS IN LOS ANGELES AT THE EUGENIA BUTLER GALLERY AND THE CLAIRE COPLEY GALLERY. HE HAS ALSO SHOWN AT THE LONG BEACH MUSEUM OF ART AND THE LOS ANGELES INSTITUTE OF CONTEMPORARY ART, THE CONTEMPORARY ART MUSEUM, HOUSTON, CONTEMPORARY ART CENTER, CINCINNATI, AND IN NEW YORK AT METRO PICTURES. HIS WORK WILL BE SHOWN THIS YEAR AT ART & PROJECT GALLERY IN AMSTERDAM.

RECEPTION FOR THE ARTIST: SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 3-5pm.

# # # #

WILLIAM LEAVITT

**RICHARD KUHLENSCHMIDT GALLERY**

1630 SEVENTEENTH STREET • SANTA MONICA, CALIFORNIA 90404

(310) 450-2010 FAX (310) 450-0872

**PRESS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**WILLIAM LEAVITT \* APRIL 25 - JUNE 6, 1992**

Beginning April 25 and continuing through June 6, 1992, the Richard Kuhlenschmidt Gallery is pleased to present an exhibition of new drawings by **WILLIAM LEAVITT**.

**LEAVITT'S** work was last seen in the exhibition **Los Angeles: 1970-75**, at Christine Burgin Gallery, NY and Richard Kuhlenschmidt Gallery, Santa Monica.

**Reception for the artist: Saturday, April 25, 5 - 7 pm**

\* \* \*

**LEAVITT, WILLIAM**